

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TGEN, OTRA, OSCI, BU, US

SUBJECT:NAS EXCHANGEES ALBERT GILMAN

1. NAS (MITCHELL) HAS RECEIVED CABLE DATED 2/8/78 FROM BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (POPOV, FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT) DISCUSSING "SERIOUS PROBLEMS" IT IS EXPERIENCING WITH GILMAN'S HOUSING AND STATING THAT NO ROOMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR HIM AND FULL FAMILY AFTER FEBRUARY 27. BAN INFORMS NAS THAT IT HAS REFERRED THE PROBLEM TO THE EMBASSY, SUGGESTING THAT THE GILMANS BE HOUSED IN UNOCCUPIED EMBASSY APARTMENTS. (IN VIEW OF LIMITED STAFF HOUSING IN SOFIA, WE COULD NOT SUPPORT USE OF OUR QUARTERS FOR THIS PURPOSE) BAN HAS FURTHER INDICATED THAT UNLESS THIS OR SOME OTHER RESOLUTION CAN BE FOUND BY FEBRUARY 27, THEY "WONDER WHETHER PROFESSOR GILMAN WOULD DECIDE TO CONTINUE HIS RESEARCH VISIT ALONE (OR WITH WIFE AND 1-2 CHILDREN) OR WOULD PREFER TO DEPART," ADDING THAT "UNFORTUNATELY WE HAVE NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE."
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NAS INTERPRETS FOREGOING TO MEAN THAT BAN COULD PROVIDE HOUSING FOR PART OF GILMAN FAMILY BUT NOT ALL NINE MEMBERS. (NAS ASSUMES THAT EMBASSY IS GENERALLY INFORMED ABOUT GILMAN SITUATION ON THE BASIS OF COMMUNICATION WITH BAN AND MITCHELL'S LETTER TO KARCH OF 12/2/77.)

2. NAS PERCEIVES FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES FOR GILMAN:

(1) THAT HE TERMINATE HIS VISIT; (2) THAT HE REMAIN IN BULGARIA AND HIS FAMILY (OR PART OF IT) RETURN TO US; AND (3) THAT PART OF HIS FAMILY REMAIN IN BULGARIA WITH REMAINDER NEARBY. OPTION (1) WOULD SEEM UNDESIRABLE FROM GILMAN'S STANDPOINT SINCE NAS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR GILMAN WILL CONTINUE ONLY AS LONG AS HE REMAINS IN BULGARIA.

3. WITH REGARD TO OPTION (3), NAS WONDERS WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR GILMAN TO SEND SOME OF HIS OLDER CHILDREN TO BOARDING SCHOOL IN SALONIKA FOR THE BALANCE OF HIS VISIT. WHILE GILMAN WOULD HAVE TO MEET ALL COSTS PERSONALLY, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AN ATTRACTIVE OPTION UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. PRESUMABLY SOME MULTIPLE-ENTRY VISA ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT WITH GOB TO ALLOW FAMILY VISITS.

4. NAS FEELS THAT IT HAS AMPLY FOREWARNED GILMAN OF THE DIFFICULTIES HE MIGHT ENCOUNTER IN HOUSING AND THAT HE NOW MUST DECIDE WHAT ACTIONS ARE IN HIS BEST INTERESTS. NAS WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S EFFORTS TO COUNSEL AND ASSIST GILMAN AS APPROPRIATE. PLEASE ADVISE. VANCE

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